



Regular City Council Meeting  
7:00 p.m., Monday, September 21, 2020  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

**FINAL**

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## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was held on September 21, 2020, as a Virtual Meeting via Zoom, an electronic meeting platform. Notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with Public Act 267-1976 and electronically as authorized by Executive Order 2020 129 signed by Governor Whitmer on June 18, 2020, in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, protect the public health, and provide essential protections to vulnerable Michiganders by limiting in-person contact and the number of people interacting at public gatherings.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Mayor Bowman.

### 1. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Sara Bowman	Mayor	Present	
David DeLind	Councilmember	Absent	
Joe LaRussa	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	
Steve Schneemann	Councilmember	Present	
Maria Taylor	Councilmember	Present	

#### **City Administration Present**

Director Christiansen  
Director Demers  
Superintendent Eudy  
City Clerk Mullison  
City Manager Murphy  
City Attorney Schultz  
Director Weber

### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### 3. APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Accept City of Farmington Board and Commission Minutes
- B. City of Farmington Minutes
  - a. August 17, 2020 Special
  - b. August 17, 2020 Regular
  - c. August 24, 2020 Special Joint DDA/Council
  - d. September 2, 2020 Special
- C. Farmington Public Safety Monthly Report

Move to approve the consent agenda as presented.\*\*

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Taylor, Councilmember

### 4. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Move to approve the regular agenda with the addition of Item 5C – Video Presentation from Brian Golden, Item 6E Emergency Water Main Replacement Discussion, and Item 6 F - Discussion on Forming a Pathways Committee.\*\*

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED AS AMENDED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Schneemann, Councilmember

### 5. PRESENTATION/PUBLIC HEARINGS

#### A. Shiawassee Speed Study Follow-up

Director Demers summarized a speed study conducted recently. At the August 17th City Council Meeting, during the public comment session, a resident voiced her concerns about excessive speeding vehicles on Shiawassee in the same area that the speed study was collected. It was decided that a follow-up study would be conducted. However, for this new study, the portable speed sign was set to “ghost” mode, whereby it monitors speeds and traffic volumes but does not provide a visual speed display to oncoming traffic. The follow-up study was conducted from August 20th thru September 5th. The results of the study revealed that the average speed was 25.46 mph. Again, there were some excessive speeds recorded, but most vehicles were found to be traveling at or near the 25mph posted speed limit. This follow-up study confirms that, with a few exceptions, drivers on Shiawassee between Farmington Road and Grand River Ave. are traveling at or near the 25 mph posted speed limit. The Public Safety Department will be offering speed measurement demonstrations to the public on Liberty Street in front of City Hall on October 5 and October 22 to see how the public does on measuring speed by sight.

A video made by Brian Golden to lay the foundation about what the Public Safety Department does to measure speeds was presented. Demers said there would be a press release to announce the public demonstrations.

Council commented on pedestrian safety, speeding, and speeding response.

**B. New Flanders Park Equipment**

LaRussa announced that the Flanders Park playscape project was now finished and that the DPW staff went above and beyond to assist in the installment. The project came in under budget, faster than expected, and was very well received. LaRussa stated that the whole process was very positive and that the Farmington Meadows neighborhood was very pleased.

**C. Video Presentation**

Brian Golden presented a video report on the new murals in the City of Farmington.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Consideration to approve amendment to Traffic Control Order**

Demers requested an amendment to the Traffic Control Order because of congestion near Our Lady of Sorrows in the morning and late afternoon. In August, Our Lady of Sorrows School administrators contacted the public safety department for assistance in resolving traffic congestion during the morning drop off and evening pick up times. Because busing has been suspended, more parents are driving their children to school, causing additional traffic congestion problems. There is continued uncertainty as to when or if busing will resume for the remainder of the school year. It was determined that prohibiting left turns from southbound Raphael to eastbound Shiawassee and from eastbound Shiawassee to northbound Raphael during the suggested times would aid in relieving traffic congestion during school days. A Temporary Traffic Control Order was issued on August 26th and No Left Turn signs were installed at these locations. After a two-week monitoring period, a significant reduction in traffic congestion during the above noted times was observed. The department recommends the amendment of the traffic control order to include the above referenced No Left Turn restrictions as a means to provide a long-term solution to the traffic congestion problems at Our Lady of Sorrows School while school is in session.

Bowman commended Demers for the idea and asked about whether any Traffic Control Orders had been considered on the Power Road side of the school. Demers reported that the school had implemented use of a circle drive on that side so that there was not as much of an impact there.

**Move to approve Amendment to Chapter 8 of the Traffic Control Order to prohibiting left turns from southbound Raphael Street to eastbound Shiawassee Avenue – School Days Only – from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and approve Amendment to Chapter 8 of the Traffic Control Order prohibiting left turns from eastbound Shiawassee to northbound Raphael Street – School Days Only – from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m..\*\***

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Schneemann, Councilmember
<b>AYES:</b>	Bowman, LaRussa, Schneemann, Taylor
<b>ABSENT:</b>	DeLind

**B. Consideration to approve a resolution extending Resolution Regarding Relaxation of Certain Requirements for Reopening Retail and Restaurant/Bar Businesses in Light of Covid-19 Pandemic**

Director Christiansen summarized a request to extend a resolution previously used to assist businesses and restaurants to safely reopen utilizing outdoor space. Discussion about how this might be implemented in inclement weather followed.

**Move to adopt a Resolution extending Resolution 06-20-016 regarding relaxation of certain requirements for reopening retail and restaurant/bar businesses in light of COVID-19 Pandemic from Nov. 1, 2020 through April 14, 2021.\*\***

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Taylor, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Schneemann, Councilmember
<b>AYES:</b>	LaRussa, Schneemann, Taylor, Bowman
<b>ABSENT:</b>	DeLind

**C. Consideration to approve payment to V.I.L. Construction Incorporated for Construction Estimate No. 4 in the amount of \$179,487.86 for the Mayfield Street Reconstruction**

Superintendent Eudy requested approval for payment for work completed from July 28, 2020 until August 27, 2020 on the Mayfield project. Work in this period included sidewalk, driveway, curb and gutter removal and replacement, road base aggregates, storm sewer, and drainage materials.

**Move to approve payment to V.I.L. Construction Incorporated for Construction Estimate No. 4 in the amount of \$179,487.86 for the Mayfield Street Reconstruction.\*\***

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Taylor, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	LaRussa, Councilmember
<b>AYES:</b>	Schneemann, Taylor, Bowman, LaRussa
<b>ABSENT:</b>	DeLind

**D. Consideration to approve the Grant Agreement for 2021 between the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC) and the Cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills**

City Attorney Schultz summarized a request for approval for year three of a grant agreement. The MIDC is charged under the state law with developing uniform minimum standards in Michigan courts for providing indigent criminal defense services; it is also responsible for ensuring compliance with those standards. The MIDC Act (Public Act 93 of 2013, as amended recently by Public Act 214 of 2018) provides for state grants to assist the governmental units responsible for the various courts in complying with these standards. As the two funding units for the 47th District Court, the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills are ultimately responsible for compliance with the minimum standards established by the Commission and are proposed to be the joint recipient of the grant as the “indigent criminal defense system” for the 47th District Court.

City Council approved the original agreement on February 19, 2019 and the 2020 agreement on February 18, 2020. Both Farmington and Farmington Hills are proposed to be parties to the Agreement; however, because Farmington is the entity through which the money to fund the 47th District Court runs, it has been designated as the “fiduciary” entity. For the one-year period from October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019 the budget for providing these indigent defense services is estimated to be \$187,828.22. The vast majority of that would be funded through the state grant. Most of the funds are expected to be used to pay defense attorneys and to offset court costs.

**Move to approve the Grant Agreement for 2021 between the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC) and the Cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills, subject to final form as approved by the City Manager and City Attorney’s Office.\*\***

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Taylor, Councilmember
<b>AYES:</b>	Taylor, Bowman, LaRussa, Schneemann
<b>ABSENT:</b>	DeLind

**E. Emergency Water Main Replacement Discussion**

Eudy explained the need for immediate replacement of the water main in the Nine Mile and Floral Street intersection. In the last five years there have been six repairs needed in this location. The Water and Sewer Department has been monitoring another leak they have been

unable to locate since observing weeping again. Each time the main fails the intersection must be completely closed, and Eudy stated that had been too many times. Discussion and questions followed about where estimated costs and exceptions had been developed from, and the fact that Nine Mile is a County road and a fire route. Council questioned the degree of the emergency, and Eudy explained that it was an urgent need to fix sooner rather than be scheduled later, as subsequent breaks will cost upwards of \$20,000 each before it can be replaced and improved to a larger main. Matt Parks of OHM explained that present repairs are putting in new sections of 4" main and the water main replacement will change it to 8" pipe that would last for 50+ years. Discussion followed about how many feet of pipe would be replaced and whether pipe further from the intersection would need to be enlarged, but Eudy stated that the residential areas attached to this main do not have the stresses placed upon them that the intersection does and that 4" pipe would be sufficient there.

Schneemann questioned how necessary this repair was at this time, as well as the wisdom of going with a non-bid contract. Packaging this project with other like projects might allow better pricing, and Murphy pointed out that other repairs of this type were not planned for the coming year. LaRussa asked for a not-to-exceed cost. Parks explained where some savings could be found with a more detailed estimate, he estimated a need to have a budget of \$300,000. Director Weber explained where the funds could be pulled from and that the Water and Sewer fund balance is sufficient, even though this is not a budgeted expense.

LaRussa requested calling a special meeting in a week to allow Eudy and OHM to come up with a more detailed cost proposal that Council could study prior to needing to make a decision. Eudy expressed concern that a break might occur before Council could reconvene on the topic, and Murphy suggested that Council could move to schedule an emergency meeting for next week, but also give administration authority not to exceed \$300,000 for the replacement if there is a break before Council can meet again. This would allow OHM and Eudy to go forward to get better numbers but allow for the possibility that the main could break in the meantime. Discussion occurred about the process and timeline for shutting down the main and service of water if a break did occur before the next time Council could meet.

**Move to instruct City administration to schedule another meeting for a week from today with City Council to take a look at the best numbers that we can find for doing work at this intersection for the water main and in the meantime also give authority up to \$300,000 to the administration to start the project immediately if there is a break between now and that meeting.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Schneemann, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	LaRussa, Mayor Pro Tem
<b>AYES:</b>	Taylor, Bowman, LaRussa, Schneemann
<b>ABSENT:</b>	DeLind

## F. DISCUSS FORMING A PATHWAYS COMMITTEE

City Manager Murphy requested discussion and direction to form a Pathways Committee to explore improving bikeways and walkways in Farmington. His vision of the committee would be to have them inventory what we have, decide what we want connected, and then put a plan together that breaks it up into smaller, doable pieces that can be used to apply for grants.

LaRussa asked whether this group might be started faster if it was organized as an ad hoc committee, but Murphy stated that he felt that a long term committee would be best. Schneemann liked the idea and noted that Council had been talking about complete streets and multimodal transportation for a long time. He stated that he knew of residents who were very interested in this topic and suggested that they be included. Murphy was directed to move ahead with bylaws and the formation of the committee.

## 7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Todd Craft, DDA Board President, commented on funding to cover purchase of heaters for businesses pertaining to the previous Resolution extension item. He also noted that Cathy Waun was instrumental in raising funds for the new mural on the bakery and should get credit for her efforts.

## 8. CITY COUNCIL COMMENT

LaRussa brought Council up to date on a draft report from the feasibility study for Municipal Broadband. He requested a meeting with Weber and Murphy about looking at financing models for this project.

Taylor thanked colleagues on Council for supporting the formation of a Pathways Committee. She will be focusing on getting grants and finding short term projects to get started. She would like to incorporate walkability and bikeability into longer-term projects.

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

**Move to adjourn the meeting.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED AS PRESENTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Taylor, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Schneemann, Councilmember

Meeting adjourned 8:48 p.m.

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Sara Bowman, Mayor

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Mary J. Mullison, City Clerk

Approval Date: October 19, 2020

**\*\***To view approved documents, please see the Agenda Packet link that is relevant to this meeting at <http://farmgov.com/City-Services/Government/Agendas-and-Minutes/City-Council.aspx> or contact the City Clerk.